

VZCZCXRO2466  
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK  
DE RUEHGB #1031 0941516  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 031516Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6637  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001031

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/03/2018

TAGS: PGOV SOCI SCUL I2

SUBJECT: EPRT: HR ADVISOR AL-JABOORI EXPLAINS SUNNI  
WITHDRAWAL FROM NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE

REF: 07 BAGHDAD 003907

Classified By: E-PRT Leader Eric Whitaker, Reason: Section 1.4 (b) and  
(d)

¶1. (U) This is a Baghdad 2 E-PRT reporting cable.

¶2. (C) On March 25, Sheikh Omar Al-Jaboori, Human Rights Advisor to Vice President Tariq Al-Hashimi told E-PRT Team Leader and BCT Commander during a biweekly reconciliation meeting that prominent Sunni political parties refused to participate in the March 18 national reconciliation conference in Baghdad for several reasons. These included:

-- The invitation was "not appropriate." It was exclusively for selected members of the Council of Representatives, and not inclusive.

-- The event was anticipated as an act of propaganda by the GOI/PM,s Office, designed in part to provide a good impression on the eve of the League of Arab States Summit to be held in Damascus. The event was "not serious."

¶3. (C) Al-Jaboori complained that the PM,s Office had removed IFCNR leader Dr. Safaa Al-Sheikh from the Council of Representatives National Reconciliation Committee. The Committee is too heavily influenced by the PM,s Office, he added, rather than being independent and incorporating other important sheikhs. Today, the Committee is "captured" by the PM, who then invites who he pleases to reconciliation events.

To represent true reconciliation, the Committee must be a composite of individuals, rather than partisan elements.

¶4. (C) Ironically, Al-Jaboori had repeatedly raised the notion of higher-level dialogue on national reconciliation in several previous meetings with the E-PRT and BCT (reftel).

CROCKER